A SOLEMN

Engagement of the Army

under the Command of his Excellency Sir THOMAS FAIRFAX: With a Declaration of their Resolutions, as to Disbanding; and a briefe Vindication of their Principles and intentions in relation to divers scandalous things suggested against them.

Together with the representations of the dissatisfactions of the ARMY, in relation to the late Resolutions for so sudden Disbanding: shewing the particulars of their former grievances; wherein they did remaine unsatisfied: and the Reasons thereof, unanimously agreed upon, and subscribed by the Officers and Souldiers of the severall Regiments, at [illegible] Randezvous neer *New-Market* on *Friday* and *Saturday*, *June* 4 and 5.

Presented to the Generall, and by him to be humbly presented to the PARLIAMENT.

With his Excellencies Letter to the Speaker *June* the 8, sent with the same.

LONDON,
Printed for Richard Lownes, at the signe of the Unicorn in Ludgate-hill, 1647.

MASTER SPEAKER

IN my last I promised to send you by the next an account of the proceedings and resolutions of the Army at the late Randezvouz: I have sent you the same in two papers unanimously agreed on there, by both Officers and Souldiers: I find in one of them divers things which your later proceedings since the resolution of disbanding may have given satisfaction unto: but the Army having then no knowledge thereof, it was thus passed and delivered to me, and I cannot but send it to them: you may see what they then did remaine unsatisfied in.

Understanding that his Majesty and your Commissioners were much straitned and discommodated in the house at Childerley, I went thither yesterday to advise with your Commissioners about the disposall of his Majesty, for more conveniency to himselfe and them, then that place did afford: The Commissioners were pleased wholly to refuse giving any advice or opinion at all in the businesse, and therefore the King declaring his resolution not to goe back to Holdenby unlesse he were forced, yet complaining much of the inconveniency he suffered where he was, and pressing for a remove to Newmarket, and your Commissioners not judging it inconvenient for him to be there: I ordered Colonell Whaley this day to attend his Majesty and the Commissioners thither, with a trusty and sufficient Guard of two Regiments of Horse, which accordingly was this day done, and his Majesty with the Commissioners, gone to New-Market, but not through Cambridge. This businesse taking up the whole time yesterday, and it being necessary his Majesty should be disposed of: Before the place of Rādezvous could well be resolved on, this morning, at a Counsell of War, it was judged inconvenient, & scarce possible to draw to a Randezvouz to morrow early enough to dispatch any thing; therefore it is appointed on Thursday morning at nine of the clock: and in regard of his Majesties going to New-Market, it was thought fit by the Counsell of Warre, that the place of Randezvouz might be altered from New-Market Heath to Triploe Heath, five miles from this Towne: I shall take care that your Commissioners if they come to New-Market, may have notice of this alteration from the former appointment. I remain

Your most humble Servant

Cambridge, June 8. 1647 T. FAIRFAX.

For the Honourable *William Lenthall* Esquire, Speaker of the honourable House of *Commons*.

A Solemn Engagement of the Army, under the Command of his Excellency Sir Thomas Fairfax,

Read, assented unto, and subscribed by all Officers and Souldiers of the severall Regiments, at the generall Rendezvous, near Newmarket, *on the fifth of June,* 1647.

WHereas upon the Petition intended and agreed upon in the Army, in *March* last, to have been presented to the Generall, for the obtaining of our due and necessary concernments as Souldiers; the Honourable House of *Commons* being unseasonably prepossessed with a Copy thereof, and (as by the sequell we suppose) with some strange misrepresentations of the carriage and intentions of the same, was induced to send down an Order for suppressing the Petition; and within two or three dayes after, upon further misinformation, and scandalous suggestions, of the like or worse nature, and by the indirect practice of some malicious and mischievous persons (as we suppose) surprizing, or otherwise abusing the *Parliament*; A Declaration was published in the name of both Houses, highly censuring the said Petition, and declaring the Petitioners, if they should proceed thereupon, no lesse then enemies to the State, and disturbers of the publike peace. And whereas at the same time, and since, divers eminent Officers of the Army have been brought into question and trouble about the said Petition, whereby both they and the rest of the Officers were disabled, or discouraged for the time, from further acting or appearing therein on the Souldiers behalfe; And whereas by the aforesaid proceedings and the effects thereof, the Souldiers of this Army (finding themselves so stop't in their due, and regular way of making known their just grievances, and desires to, and by their Officers) were inforced to an unusuall (but in that case necessary) way of correspondance and agreement amongst themselves, to chose out of the severall Troops and Companies severall men, and those out of their whole number, to chose two or more for each Regiment, to act in the name and behalfe of the whole Souldiery of the respective Regiments, Troops, and Companies, in the prosecution

tion of their rights and desires in the said Petition, as also of their just vindication and writing in reference to the aforesaid proceedings upon and against the same, who have accordingly acted and done many things to those ends, all which the Souldiers did then approve as their own Acts. And whereas afterwards (upon the sending down of Field-Marshall *Skippon*, and those other Officers of the Army that were Members of the House of *Commons*, to quiet distempers in the Army, fresh hopes being conceived of having our desires again admitted to be made known and considered in a regular way, and without such misrepresentations as formerly, the Officers and Souldiers of the Army (except some few dissenting Officers) did again joyn in a representation of their common grievances; and the Officers (except as before) did agree upon a Narrative accompt of the grounds, rise, and growth of the discontents in the Army, and their proceedings in relation thereunto, with an overture of the best expedients, to remove or satisfie the same, both which were presented to the same Members of the House, and by them reported to the House. And whereas the Parliament having thereupon voted, and ordered some particulars, onely towards satisfaction of our grievances, hath since proceeded to certain resolutions of sudden disbanding the Army by peeces, which resolutions being taken, and to be executed before full or equall satisfaction given to the whole Army, in any of the grievances, before effectuall performance of that satisfaction in part, which the preceeding Votes seem'd to promise, as to some of the grievances, and before any consideration at all of some others most materiall, (as by the result of a generall Counsell of War on Saturday, *May* 29. was in generall declared, and is now more fully demonstrated, in particular by a representation thereupon, agreed unto by us:) We all cannot but look upon the same resolutions of disbanding us in such manner, as proceeding from the same malicious and mischievous Principles and intentions, and from the like indirect practises of the same persons abusing the *Parliament*, and is as the former proceedings against us before mentioned did, and not without carnall and bloody purposes (for some of them have not stuck to declare or intimate) after the body of the Army should be disbanded,

banded, or the ſouldiers divided from their Officers: then to queſtion, proceed againſt, and execute their malicious intentions upon all ſuch particular Officers, and ſouldiers in the Army, as had appeared to act in the Premiſſes in the behalfe of the Army; and whereas upon a late Petition to the Generall from the Agitants, in behalfe of the ſouldiers (grounded upon the preceeding conſiderations, relating to the ſame reſolutions of disbanding the ſame generall Councell of warre to prevent the danger and inconveniences of thoſe diſturbings, or tumultuous actings, or confluences which the diſſatisfaction and Jealouſie thereupon alſo grounded, were like ſuddenly to have produced in the Army to adviſe the Generall, firſt to contract the Quarters of the Army, and then to draw the ſame to an orderly *Randezvous* for ſatisfaction of all, and that his Exc llencie would immediately ſend up to move and deſire the Parliament to ſuſpend any preſent proceeding upon the ſaid Reſolution of diſbanding, to reſume the Conſideration of the grievances, and deſires ſent up from the Army, and not to disband it in peeces before juſt and equall ſatisfaction given to the whole; And whereas ſome of the Regiments appointed for diſbanding, upon notice thereof withdrawing themſelves from the Quarters adjacent to the appointed Randezvous, and drawing towards the Head Quarters; and the contracting their Quarters according to the ſaid advice of the Councell of Warre.

Wee the Officers and Souldiers of ſeverall Regiments hereafter named, are now met at a generall Randezvouz, and the Regiments appointed, as aforeſaid, to be disbanded, have not appeared, nor can appeare; but are reſolved not to appeare at the ſeverall and reſpective Randezvouz, appointed as aforeſaid for their disbanding; and divers other things have been done by ſeverall other parties or members of the Army, neceſſarily relating to the good and concernment of the whole in theſe Affaires: now foraſmuch as we know not how far the malice, injuſtice and tyrannicall Principles of our enemies, that have already prevailed ſo far to abuſe the Parliament and the Army (as is afore mentioned) in the paſt proceedings againſt the Army, may further prevaile to the danger and prejudice of our ſelves, or any Officers or Souldiers of the Army, or other perſons

ſons that have appeared to act any thing in behalfe of the Army, or how far the ſame may further prevaile to the danger or prejudice of the Kingdome in raiſing a new War, or otherwiſe: Therefore for the better prevention of all ſuch dangers, prejudices, or other inconveniences that may enſue; and withall for better ſatisfaction to the Parliament and Kingdome, concerning our deſires of conferring to the authority of the one, and providing the good and quiet of the other, in the preſent affaires of disbanding, and for a more aſſured way, whereby that affaires may come to a certain iſſue, (to which purpoſe we herein humbly implore the preſent and continued aſſiſtance of God, the righteous Judge of all) wee the Officers and Souldiers of the Army ſubſcribing hereunto, doe hereby declare, agree and promiſe, to and with each other, and to, and with the Parliament and Kingdome as followeth.

1 That we ſhall cheerfully and readily disband whē therunto required by the Parliament, or elſe ſhall many of us be willing (if deſired) to engage in further Services either in *England* or *Ireland*, having firſt ſuch ſatisfaction to the Army in relation to our Grievances and deſires heretofore preſented, and ſuch ſecurity; That we of our ſelves (when disbanded, and in the condition of private men) or other the free-borne people of *England* (to whom the conſequence of our caſe doth equally extend) ſhall not remaine ſubject to the like oppreſſion, injury or abuſe, as in the premiſes hath been attempted and put upon us while an Army by the ſame mens continuance, in the ſame credit and power (eſpecially if as our Judges, who have in theſe paſt proceedings againſt the Army ſo far prevailed to abuſe the Parliament and us, and to endanger the Kingdome; and alſo ſuch ſecurity that we our ſelves, or any member of this Army, or others, who have appeared to act any thing in behalfe of the Army in relation to the premiſes before recited, ſhall not after disbanding be any way queſtioned, proſecuted, troubled, or prejudiced for any thing ſo acted, or for the entring into, or neceſſary proſecution of this neceſſary agreement: (we ſay) having firſt ſuch ſatisfaction and ſecurity in theſe things as ſhall be agreed unto by a Counſell to conſiſt of thoſe generall Officers of the Army (who have concurred with the Army in the

premiſes)

premiſes) with two Commiſſion-Officers and two Souldiers to be choſen for each Regiment, who have concurred, and ſhall concurre with us in the premiſes, and in this agreement. And by the major part of ſuch of them who ſhall meet in Counſell for that purpoſe when they ſhall be thereunto called by the Generall.

2 That without ſuch ſatisfaction and ſecurity, as aforeſaid, we ſhall not willingly disband, nor divide, nor ſuffer our ſelves to be disbanded or divided.

And whereas we find many ſtrange things ſuggeſted or ſuſpected to our great prejudice concerning dangerous principles, intereſts and deſignes in this Army (as to the overthrow of Magiſtracy, the ſuppreſſion or hindering of Presbytery, the eſtabliſhment of Independent government, or upholding of a generall licentiouſneſſe in Religion, under pretence of Liberty of Conſcience, and many ſuch things; we ſhall very ſhortly tender to the Parliament a Vindication of the Army from all ſuch ſcandals to cleer our Principles in relation thereunto, and in the meane time we doe diſavow and diſclaime all purpoſes or deſignes in our late or preſent proceedings to advance or inſiſt upon any ſuch intereſt, neither would we (if we might and could) advance or ſet up any other particular party or intereſt in the Kingdome (though imagined never ſo much our owne) but ſhall much rather (as far as may be within our ſphear or power) ſtudy to promote ſuch an eſtabliſhment of common and equall right and freedom to the whole, as all might equally partake of but thoſe that doe by denying the ſame to others, or otherwiſe render themſelves incapable thereof.

An

An humble REPRESENTATION OF

The Diſſatisfactions of the ARMY, in relation to the late Reſolutions for ſo ſudden Disbanding: ſhewing the particulars of their former grievances wherein they did remaine unſatisfied, and the Reaſons thereof.

Vnanimouſly agreed upon and ſubſcribed by the Officers and Souldiers of the ſeverall Regiments, at the Rendezvouz neer *New-Market*, on Friday and Saturday, *June* 4, & 5.

Preſented to the General, to be by him humbly repreſented to the Parliament.

WHereas upon the Report made to the Houſe of *Commons* on Friday, *May* 21. concerning the grievances of the *Army*, That Houſe was pleaſed to paſſe ſeverall Votes ſeeming to tend towards the ſatisfaction of the Army in ſome particulars: and on *Tueſday* following (*May* 25.) to paſſe divers Reſolutions upon a Report from the Committee at *Darby-*

house concerning the disbanding of the Foot of this *Army* each Regiment apart at severall times and places: We humbly declare, That the said Votes of *Friday* doe come farre short of satisfaction (as to the said grievances) or to the desires proposed by the Officers in the conclusion of their *Narrative*. And that the latter Votes of *Tuesday* importing a resolution to disband the *Army* in part, before equall satisfaction bee given to the whole in the grievances or so much as any consideration had of some others that are most materiall, and also before any effectuall performances of that Satisfaction with the Votes of *Friday* seemed to promise as to some of the Grievances, wee cannot but be much unsatisfied and troubled at it, as in the particulars following it may apeare we have cause.

1. The proportion of but eight weeks Arreares to be paid at disbanding, as it is unreasonably short of what is most due, and what we conceive may be paid, or might easily have been provided, since the Parliament hath so long had the whole Kingdome cleared, all trading and commerce opened, vast summes of money brought in upon Delinquents compositions and otherwise, and great foundations of security in their hands (besides those formerly engaged for the *Scots*.) And as it is but a meane reward for all our labours, hardships and hazards in the Kingdomes cause, and a very slender supply to carry us to our homes in a condition suitable to the Parliaments honour and our successe, and much lesse to enable those that have left good trades or other wayes of livelihood, and suffered much in their trades or stocks by so doing, to set up again in their former callings and conditions; so it is but little (if any thing) more then what hath been due to us since that time that wee first went about to have petitioned for our Arreares, and so not to bee accounted in Satisfaction towards former Arreares, which the Petition was meant for.

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2. In the Orders given for the ſtating of our Accounts, giving Debentures for our Arreares by the Committee of the Army, we find no conſideration or regard had of our Arreares incurred in former Army or Services, which to the moſt of us are much greater then thoſe under the *New Modell*, intended to be ſtated by the Committee for the Army, as the *Narrative* of the Officers, Printed by miſtake under the name of their Declaration, did intimate before.

3. We cannot but conſider, That (whatever the Officers expectances upon Debentures may prove) the private Souldiers may well make little account of whatever part of his Arreares he receives not before diſbanding, as the Reaſons expreſſe in the *Narrative* doe ſhew. And whereas we heare of ſome Inſtructions paſt in an Ordinance for ſtating of Arreares, we underſtand that they direct 7 s. a weeke to be abated to Foot-ſouldiers for quarter, which being 8d. or 8d. *per diem*, above the rate they ſhould have paid for themſelves, if they had timely had Pay wherewithall: It ſeemes very hard the poore Souldiers ſhould allow intereſt for the forbearance of his owne due.

The like diſproportion we find in the abatements to Serjeants of Foot for their Quarters: in the abatement for Quarters to Officers of Horſe and Dragoons, we find one third Part of the whole Pay to them due both for themſelves and their Horſes is to be defalked, though the full Pay for their Horſes is not allowed in the Account, unleſſe they make it appeare by Muſters that they kept their full numbers; and the third part of their full Pay, amounting to the halfe or neere the halfe of their preſent Pay, ſeemes an unreaſonable allowance for Quarters, eſpecially in the caſe of Captaines and Field-Officers. We find alſo no Proviſion made for private Souldiers of Horſe, or Foot, or any Officers in Commiſſion or not in Commiſſion, in relation to any Quarters diſcharged by them, but all ſuch are left abſolutely to abate the reſpective Rates for Quarters, during their whole time, whether they have payd

Quarters for any part of the time or no, whereas we know assuredly, and can make appeare, That all of them, during their Service in this Army (and most of them in their Service in the former Armies) have really discharged their Quarters for a very great part of the time, and many of them for more time then by the proportion of pay received, they were bound to have done, having without respects to that many times payd freely, as farre as their money would hold out, partly out of desire not to be burthensome at all to the Countrey as farre as they could, and partly upon expectation (grounded on the many promises and often renewed of constant pay for time to come) that money would come in time to pay them up, and re-imburse them their full pay againe without defalcation for quarters; we find it also provided, That no Trooper is capable of allowance or Debenture for Arreares unlesse he deliver in such Horse and Armes with which he hath served, or a Certificate, that such Horse and Armes did not appertaine to the State, or else was lost in actuall Service, which extends to the totall taking away from them those Horse and Armes of the States which they have used and preserved in the Service, contrary to the favour allowed, and never (that we knew of) denyed in the disbanding of any other Army: And if that being but a matter of favour, the Horse-men in this Service be thought unworthy of it, and must upon account for their Arreares, rebate for such Horse and Armes as upon disbanding they thought to have beene given them, yet it seemes hard that such as cannot deliver in those States Horse and Arms, which at disbanding they so understood to be their owne, and so perhaps have sold or otherwise disposed of, should for that lose their whole Arreares, or be incapable of account of debenture for any part thereof.

Fourthly, The visible securitie for what Arreares should not be paid at disbanding (which the Votes of Friday May 21. seeme to promise) as it stands propounded in the Votes of Tuesday May 25. appeares not to be either a securitie sufficient or to us visible.

1. Because that security of the Excize in Course (proposed for the Arreares of private Souldiers and inferiour Officers

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is knowne to be already pre-ingaged for vast Summes amounting to above a Million that are to take place before those Arreares, nor doe wee know certainly that the Excise (which is yet but temporarie) will be continued for so long time as till our Arrears shall come out in course after the preceding ingagements satisfied

2. Because that security proposed for Officers Arreares, *viz.* the profits arising out of Delinquents estates in the first Exception (especially) being limited to such as are not already disposed of, it does not appeare what they will amount unto, or what the pre-ingagemens or pre-disposures by the Parliament may be, or what incumbrances of Debts, or limitations of Estates (as they were in the hands of the owners) may lie upon the same, none of which we would be any occasion to defeat or avoid, so as to have the curses and grudges of defrauded Creditors or ruined Families to lye upon us or our posterities.

3. Neither the one security nor the other are yet, for ought we finde, or could well before the appointed times of disbanding, be so setled by Ordinance to the uses proposed (as the other Securities for monies borrowed by the Parliament have been) which we conceive requisite to render the same indeed visible security.

The two first of these Reasons we should not urge so much, if we did not see other matters of security within the Kingdome that would be much more cleare, (as Cathedrals and their Revenues, Forrest-lands, &c.)

5. The Ordinance voted to exempt from Pressing, first is not, for ought we understand, brought in and passed before the appointed Disbanding. Next, by the Vote it seems not to intend the exempting of Voluntier Horse-men from being prest for Foot-service. And lastly, we understand not how it can be effectuall to particular Souldiers (when dispersit about the Kingdome, and sojourning or travelling where perhaps their former relation to this Army, or condition as Voluntiers in it may not be knowne, or not credited upon their words) unlesse the Ordinance intended shall provide, That a Testi-

monial of their ſervice under the Generals or their reſpective Field-Officers or Captaines hands (which they might ever carry about, or keep by them) ſhall be their ſufficient diſcharge from any Preſſe (if they ſhall fall under it.) And whereas ſuch Teſtimonials cannot eaſily be got by them after Diſbanding, the laid Votes for ſo ſudden Diſbanding, and at ſuch diſtances, doe not mention or admit any thing of that kinde more then Paſſes from the Commiſſioners to carry them home.

6. The Ordinance voted to give Apprentiſes the benefit of their time ſpent in the Parliaments ſervice, as alſo that for the maintenance of maimed Souldiers, and the Widowes and Children of men ſlaine in the Service were not brought in and paſſed before the appointed Diſbandings, nor doe we yet heare, that they yet are, though we hope they will be.

7. The Ordinance paſſed for Indempnity ſeems to make but ſlender proviſion for our quiet, eaſe, or ſafety, in relation to things done in the War as Souldiers.

1. Becauſe the things it provides for throughout the Ordinance, comprifed only in theſe terms (*viz.*) *Things done by vertue of any Ordinance of Parliament, or for the ſervice and benefit of the Parliament*; We conceive, That upon every treſpaſſe, or other thing done in the War (which we may be queſtioned for) it will be very chargeable and difficult, either to derive a clear Authority for the ſame from Ordinance of Parliament, or to bring proofes ſufficient to make up ſuch a conſtructive concluſion, as that it was for the ſervice and benefit of the Parliament, eſpecially to do this ſo fully, as to meet with all the evaſions and cluſions of a ſubtle Lawyer, or to convince the ſences of a Countrey-Jury, whom we know not by what rules or meaſure they may go in judging what was for the ſervice and benefit of the Parliament, or what not; perhaps ſome of them may be of that minde, That it had been for the ſervice and benefit of the Parliament, to have had no War at all, or to have had fewer or no ſuch Garriſons or Forces as ſome of us have been engaged in. In ſum, We cannot thinke it ſafe to be left to the fence or conſtruction of a Countrey-Jury, concerning the exigencies of War, or duty of a Souldier upon ſo doubtfull an

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iſſue; we ſhould rather thinke, That the old iſſue, which (as we underſtand) ancient Lawes have provided for in ſuch caſes, viz. (Whether the thing were done *tempore & loco debili*) was much more clear and ſure, and an Act or Ordinance of Oblivion for all treſpaſſes or other things ſo done by Souldiers in this War, would be moſt ſafe and ſatisfactory.

2. That the proviſion in the ſaid Ordinance now paſt for Reliefe, by complaint to a Committee of Parliament at *London*, (which ſeems to be meant for ſaving of charges to poor men) we doubt will prove a very remote help, and far more chargeable for a poore Souldier impriſoned or Arreſted in the Country, then the former: and though we highly honour that Committee named in the Ordinance (for the major part of it) yet we confeſſe we ſhall be ſorry that our reliefe (if it may otherwiſe be provided for) ſhould be the occaſion of ſetting up more Arbitrary Courts then there are already, with ſo large a power of impriſoning any Free men of *England*, as the Ordinance gives to that Committee, let the perſons intruſted appear at preſent never ſo juſt and faithfull, or though all that Committee were as good Patriots as we hold the major Part to be.

3. In the matter of Accompts, we are wholly left (as before) to the mercy of the Committee for Accompts, and their Sub-Committees, whoſe conſtitution (in moſt Counties) being at leaſt of Neuters (diſaffected to the Warre, and conſequently to the Souldiery) and whoſe vaſt and arbitrary power to vex, delay, fine and impriſon at their owne pleaſure or judgement, any that they can bring within the compaſſe of accomptants, and to proceed upon their owne judgement of the default, to ſequeſter, ſell and diſpoſe of his Eſtate; as upon a Commiſſion of Bankrupt (we confeſſe) we tremble to thinke of more then of any Enemy. And though we are as jealous as any to have all men brought to an accompt, for what may clearly be accompted for (as Treaſurers, Keepers of Stores, Sequeſtrators, or ſuch like accomptants) yet we cannot but thinke it hard for us, or other the Parliament Souldiers, to be required to ſo ſtrict accompts for all things received, taken and

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used in the War by our selves, or any under our command (though but temporally upon a part) for many of which things neither we, nor any other that minded the publick service, and have bin ingaged in hazardous services, where many have lost those accompts they did keep, can give or could keep so strict accompt, or for want of such accompt to be so cruelly vexed & prosecuted, even to utter undoing, as any man that's accomptable for any thing that may be, and divers of the Parliaments most faithfull and active Servants in our condition have been before our eyes: And though we would not wish that any Souldiers or Officers who have by Plunder, or other Injury to the Countrey, abused the name of the Parliaments Service, and converted any thing they have taken or received to their owne private benefit or advantage, (more then for necessary subsistence or supplies) should go away with it, in being exempted from accompt; yet we cannot but think it reasonable and necessary, That for those many others that have not done so, but have imployed all faithfully for the publick service, such provision should bee made, as that what Armes, Ammunition, Horses, Furniture, or other things received or taken by them, they could not keep, or cannot give a cleare and distinct accompt for, it should bee sufficient for their discharge, if they make Oath, That they have not imbezelled, or wittingly converted to their private benefit or advantage, any part thereof, more then what things, or to what value they doe or shall (for saving of their Oath) charge upon themselves in their accompt.

We finde another thing mainly necessary for our and other mens Indempnity (for which there is no provision at all made in this Ordinance) *viz.* That all Acts of Councells or Courts of Warre, either in censure or discharge of any person, for any cause subject to their Judgement, and the Warrants of the Generall, or chiefe Commander, for execution or remission of such censures, may be valid and good, both as to the Justification of those that have been imployed in execution of such censures, and also the full & finall acquittall of the persons so discharged or remitted.

Eighthly,

Eighthly, Though those Officers of the Army at several times sent for, or sent up to attend the Parliament as Delinquents, have been indeed discharged (for which we render our thanks & acknowledge the Parliaments Justice in the discharge) yet for men of such credit and integrity to have their names brought so highly into publique question or suspition, and the cause not known (which might make it imagined greater) to be kept long in attendance under that notion, and not obtaine by their daily solicitations to know their Accusers, or any Charge (and for one of them) to be made a Prisoner, searched and sent up so far in a disgracefull manner, without Authority (against the right both of a Souldier and Subject) and at last to bee onely dismissed (without any word of Vindication or clearing) seems but a slender Reparation.

Ninthly, There hath yet been nothing declared by the Parl. (as in the Narration or Declaration of the Officers was desired) to cleare us, as to our right of Petitioning, or to cleare the sence and intention of the Parliament in their Order for suppressing the Petition, or the ground of their censure in the Declaration against it; Though we think no man can deny the matter of the Petition to be just, and Parliament-proceedings since upon the severall heads of it does imply as much: And if our liberty of Petitioning for our due be denyed us now, & the attempting of it rendred such a Crime (as by the said Order and Declaration appeares to be, while the ground or intention of them stands not explained otherwise) we cannot but expect the same or worse hereafter, not only to our selves (when being disbanded and dispersed, we shall have the like occasion to Petition as private & single men) but also to all the free-born people of the land in the like case; and so this president (if it stand good) would extend in the consequence of it, to render all Souldiers under the Parliament, the worst of slaves, and all Subjects little better. And though there have been of late in other mens Cases too many dangerous Presidents of suppressing Petitions, and punishing or censuring the Petitioners, yet (we think) scarce any or none so full and cleare against all just Liberties, as this in our case, whose Petition was not, as many (that yet have been

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received with large thanks) without any foundation in real grievances or dues, tending and serving meerely to declare the Petitioners opinions and inclinations in relation to matters of State (then in transaction, or intended to be put on in the Parliament) nor yet subject to any of those exceptions, which at other Petitions (seeming better grounded, more necessary or concerning then the former, and yet rejected) might be ; but ours not medling with matters of State, with proceedings of Parliament, or any bodies concernments but our owne, tended but to obtaine particular dues (often promised, dearely and fully earned, long forborne) and some of which (*viz.* the matter of Indempnity) we could not (without danger of utter ruine) want after disbanding ; and these but desired in an humble and submissive way, without any language, scandalous or offensive, or any other particular exception (for matter or form) that we have ever yet been told of, or could any way learn ; so as though we are willing to believe the Parliament was mis-informed, abused or surprized in the businesses (as the Narrative does expresse) yet we cannot hitherto understand from whence such proceedings against such a Petition, or against us for it, could arise, except (in those that moved and drew the Parliament thereunto) from some principles of Malignants envy or dislike against us, the Petitioners for the things God hath done by us, carrying them (above all other considerations of just or unjust, dangerous or safe) to this end, as the greatest good, that this Army must not passe with that Reputation God hath given it, but must (upon any occasion that could be catched hold on) have a dishonour put upon it, and by discontents and provocations be put into distemper, so as to doe something that might render it odious, or bring a blemish upon it.

Teothly, the Declaration yet standing in force, and nothing published by the Parliament to clear the Army from the censure it thereby lies under, there remains a brand of Ignominy upon this Army to Posterity : And those Souldiers that have proceeded to act any thing in pursuance of their just Desires in that Petition, or in Representation of their just Grievances thereupon; as also those Officers that have any way concurred with

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